

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Brazil Downtown Historic District

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number E & W National Avenue between Depot & Forest Aves. N/A  not for publication

city or town Brazil N/A  vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Clay code 021 zip code 47834

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant.  
 nationally  statewide  locally. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Property

5. Classification

Ownership of Property  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property  
(Check only one box)

- building
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
35	13	buildings
0	2	sites
0	0	structures
2	0	objects
37	15	Total

Name of related multiple property listing  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register

1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

- COMMERCE/TRADE: Financial Institution
- COMMERCE/TRADE: Department Store
- COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store
- COMMERCE/TRADE: Business
- COMMERCE/TRADE: Professional
- COMMERCE/TRADE: Restaurant
- GOVERNMENT: Post Office

Current Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

- COMMERCE/TRADE: Financial Institution
- COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store
- COMMERCE/TRADE: Business
- COMMERCE/TRADE: Professional
- COMMERCE/TRADE: Restaurant
- SOCIAL: Meeting Hall
- GOVERNMENT: City Hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions)

- LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate
- LATE VICTORIAN: Romanesque
- 19th & 20th c. REVIVALS: Italian Renaissance

Materials  
(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation BRICK
- walls BRICK
- STONE: Limestone
- roof ASPHALT
- other STONE
- METAL

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria  
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations  
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance  
(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE  
COMMERCE

Period of Significance  
1875-1935

Significant Dates  
N/A

Significant Person  
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
N/A

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

Architect/Builder  
Taylor, James Knox, architect  
Fletcher, George A., engineer

Narrative Statement of Significance  
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana (survey)

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 15015

UTM References:

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1: 16 488760 4374600  
Zone Easting Northing

3: 16 489250 4374590  
Zone Easting Northing

2: 16 489250 4374750

4: 16 488840 4374520

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description:

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification:

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By:

name/title Camille B. Fife, President & Thomas W. Salmon, II  
organization The Westerly Group, Inc. date 7-10-96  
street & number 556 W. 1175 N. Rd. telephone 812/696-2415  
city or town Farmersburg state IN zip code 47850

Additional Documentation:

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets:

Maps:

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs:

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items:

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Brazil Downtown Historic District  
Clay County, Indiana

## 6. Function or Use (continued)

### Historic Functions

RECREATION & CULTURE/Theater  
RECREATION & CULTURE/Monument  
HEALTH CARE/Pharmacy

### Current Functions

RECREATION & CULTURE/Monument  
LANDSCAPE/Parking Lot  
HEALTH CARE/Pharmacy

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification (continued)

Beaux Arts  
Neo-Classical Revival  
Tudor Revival  
Mission  
Commercial Style

### Narrative Description

#### Summary:

The Brazil Downtown Historic District is a linear area centered around U. S. 40/National Avenue, the historic National Road. Commercial structures dating from c.1875 to c.1990 line this main artery and reflect the development of the town. A few structures are also located on adjacent streets, one block south of National Avenue. The district includes the original town plat and a good variety of nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings. A sampling of traditional styles can be found in these structures, including Italianate, Romanesque Revival, Neo-classical Revival and others. Three Beaux Arts buildings, all constructed for financial institutions, provide outstanding examples of this style.

#### Description

The Brazil Downtown Historic District is located on an area of relatively flat topography, surrounded by only slight rises in the landscape. National Avenue, the main road is a U.S. highway, two lanes, with on-street parking. Wide sidewalks would allow for street trees, although only a few have been planted. Thus, the buildings appear relatively unfettered from the roadway. Several alleys, perpendicular to National Avenue, radiate north and south. Most secondary streets cross National at right angles, except for Meridian

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Street at the west side, Washington and Forest at the east side. Traffic on U.S. 40 is active during most parts of the day and becomes intense during peak times. Stoplights provide controls for the flow.

During the period of significance, Downtown Brazil appeared much as it does today, except that the building lots were more intensely developed, providing an unbroken frontage of one, two and three-story nineteenth century commercial buildings. This was especially true, for example in the 1880s, on the south side of National Avenue between Sherfey and Meridian streets, where the streetscape was uniform, except for the interruption of cross streets and alleys. On the north side of the street, a similar situation existed from midway between Sherfey and Walnut, west to Franklin. At the same time, several residences were present, primarily at the outer boundaries of the district, including the residence on the northwest corner of Sherfey and Jackson which is now occupied by the American Legion.

Fire, a constant enemy to early structures, took its toll around the turn of the century. Burned buildings, demolished and removed providing openings for new structures. Noteworthy among these events, was the conflagration of the Turner Hall/Macgregor Opera House c. 1906. However, the most consistent factor of change in downtown Brazil has been demolition, most of which has occurred in the latter part of this century. Although the buildings which remain today are interspersed with one-story modern structures, enough of the original appearance of the streetscape remains to provide good examples of a range of building styles and to easily represent the historic appearance. Further, several outstanding buildings have resisted these evolutions, to solidly anchor the historic district.

Evolution over time has provided some open space in the area of the present City Hall, where a former building (once an Italianate residence) had been used for this function until it was demolished in 1965. Today, a green lawn, some plantings and the McNutt fountain (which has been in this, its original location since 1906) provide a respite to the concrete and asphalt.

The Brazil Downtown Historic District today is an amalgam of commercial buildings, combining retailing, restaurant and office uses, a combination very similar to that of its heyday at the turn-of-the-century. Many buildings retain the integrity of their original fabric, especially on the upper floors. Typically, more extensive changes have occurred on the first floor only. Efforts of a small number of building owners to maintain and/or sensitively rehabilitate

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their buildings are obvious. Most notable in this regard is the Brazil Trust bank building.

Two objects have been included in the district: The previously mentioned McNutt fountain, which contributes to the on-street amenities and ties the street to local history; and an early twentieth century jeweler's street clock, whose presence reminds visitors of the ongoing retail nature of the district.

The District is clearly distinguished on the north side, for the most part, by the change to residential structures which occurs within the first block north of National Avenue. To the south, more broadly spaced, contemporary and industrial buildings also make the delineation of the historic district clear. Forest Avenue on the east side (U.S. 59) is a clearly defined edge for the district. Additional commercial structures are present to the east of this main north-south artery, as well as the county courthouse, but there is a natural break in the rhythm and type of structures beyond Forest. The boundary at the west end of National Avenue, east of Depot street, jogs on the south side, primarily because of modern construction.

The primary architectural styles present in the district include Italianate, Commercial Style, Romanesque Revival, 20th century eclectic styles such as Mission, Renaissance and Tudor Revivals as well as Neo-Classical Revival and Beaux Arts. A single example each of late Queen Anne, International Style and Prairie styles complete the composition. As mentioned previously, the outstanding examples of Neo-Classical and the related Beaux Arts styles give the district a rich distinctiveness. The most numerous examples of a single style can be found in the Italianate business blocks. Many of these structures display an imaginative and skillful use of the traditional building materials of brick and limestone. Rich varieties of ornament are present, from vermiculate stone, to polychrome pressed metal and wood cornices. The use of stone is particularly notable.

The evolution of the district is easy to trace, in the movement from the ornate Italianate structures of the nineteenth century to the more sedate Romanesque Revival, Commercial Style and Neo-Classical buildings. In these structures, the use of brick displays the proficiency of the mason's art, with reproductions of the Victorian bracketry in brickwork. These structures also introduce the use of terra cotta to the district. Although non-contributing because of their recent vintage, several examples of high quality modern architecture demonstrate the ongoing continuity of life and vitality in the district. Among these we find a bank and the City Hall, built

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within the last three decades, and a former bank/office building, remodeled in late International Style in the 1950s.

**List of Contributing and Non-Contributing Resources  
(Contributing = C, N, O; Non-contributing =N/C)**

1. 122 E. National Ave. (C) Photo No. 1  
Fraternal Order of Eagles Lodge c.1890/1927  
Queen Anne - Two story brick building with a combination cross-gabled and hipped roof with wide overhanging eaves. Narrow fascia is scroll-cut at the eave line and supported by scrolled brackets. There is a narrow vertical board freize with alternating scalloped and arrow ends. Glass-block has been used as infill in all windows. At the rear of the nineteenth century building has been constructed a three story brick block, c. 1927 with a decorative brickwork facade, including inset panels and diamond patterns. An eagle, with unfurled wings (gold-painted), perched atop a globe has been placed upon a brick pier at the southeast corner of the property, as part of the perimeter. Local sources indicate that this was once a decorative element of a former courthouse (now demolished.)
  
2. 118 National Avenue, House, (N/C) c.1910/1980  
Functional - One story, vinyl siding clad storage building. May be back half of former Moore's furniture/funeral home storage building constructed c. 1910.
  
3. Morgel's Jewelry Store Clock (N) 1908 Photo No. 2  
On lawn of Clay County Historical Society Museum, former U.S. Post Office. Relocated from its original site in front of George H. Morgel's Jewelry Store, at 106 West National Avenue. The clock was erected there in 1908 and taken down in 1945 after a car had mounted the curb and struck it. It was in storage until April of 1994, when it was restored by members of the Historical Society and Clay County Merchants and re-erected on its present site.  
  
The clock consists of a round timepiece mounted on a fluted column base, all of metal, with rounded identification panels surmounting the faces, topped by scrolled metalwork. The clock face(s) are white with oversize numerals and classic hands.
  
4. 100 E. National Ave (O)  
U. S. Post Office 1913. James Knox Taylor, Architect Photo No. 2



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Neo-Classical Revival - The two-story limestone and brick building was constructed in 1911-1913 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places September 8, 1994. This large building has a stone foundation, and a rectangular plan. A massive block, it features a colonnaded portico with engaged, entasis columns. The whole is surmounted by a limestone architrave and frieze, with fluted decoration, and a bracketed cornice, which is uniform with the balance of the building. The structure walls are of tan local brick, with a belt course at the upper second floor level, of diamond motifs inset in the brick. A brick parapet has a simple limestone coping. Windows on the upper floor are nearly square, single light, with dressed limestone sills. First floor windows are double-hung, one-over-one light with projecting stone cornices, limestone surrounds and sills. The front stair, of stone, presently arises from both sides of a raised entry stoop. The original stair ascended directly from the street at the center of the building.

5. 44 E. National Ave (C)  
Sinclair Oil Gas Station c. 1935. Photo No. 3  
Art Moderne/Mission Influence - One story concrete building with two-tone glazed tile facade and parapets. The structure has recessed doors with transoms, full light display windows, and garage doors. Originally built as the Sinclair Oil Gas Station and operated by Wilmot "Red" Moore.
6. 38 E. National Ave (C) c. 1900. Photo No. 4  
Renaissance Revival - Two and a half story tan brick, nine-bay building with a mansard roof, which is a replacement. The ground floor contains three storefronts with cast iron columns and lintels as well as some brick and wood infill as door surrounds and bulkheads. The spandrels between the transom lights and the windows proper on the second floor are terra cotta, used as a belt course. The window sills are of limestone. The entry to the second floor has its original transom, although the present door is a modern replacement.
7. 24-34 E. National Ave (N/C) c. 1980  
Modern, standard commercial plan, Kentucky Fried Chicken. One-story with drive through.
8. 20-22 E. National Ave (C) c. 1890. Photo No. 5 (right)  
Italianate - Two-story building with a corbelled frieze and small cornice. Windows have limestone surrounds and keystones in the lintels. The second floor is a five-bay facade. Two store fronts

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are included on the ground floor with cast iron columns and a central doorway leading to the second floor.

9. 14-16 E. National Ave (N) c. 1900 Photo No. 5 (center)  
Commercial Style - Three-story brick building, with two storefronts on the ground floor (re-worked in the mid-twentieth century). Full light display windows rise above concrete bulkheads, with round pier supports visible in the display areas. The center bay between the two recessed entries contains four windows, separated by narrow metal muntins. A single, wide plain frieze surmounts the window area and ends in a simple cornice at the second floor line. The second and third floors contain eight bays, grouped as three-bay indented panels flanking a central panel comprised of two oversized windows. All windows are occluded by metal panels (one also contains a louvre.) Serving as window heads on the second floor are panels of terra cotta containing four or six rosettes, respectively, on the smaller and larger windows. Decorative medallions separate the windows on the upper floor, with radiating bricks as flat window heads. The upper part of the building is also comprised of decorative trim, including brackets and projecting cornice. The roofline is capped by clay tile coping.

10. 12 E. National Avenue (O) c. 1880 Photo No. 5 (left)

Italianate - Two-story brick building with nearly intact storefront, with full light windows, recessed entry with glass transom visible. The second floor has a tripartite window with decorative mullions and pedimented window heads of stonework, punctuated at their points by decorative work. The brick work on either side of the windows has 44 header bricks absent to serve as venting. Limestone brackets and sills on these windows are unified by a belt course at the sill line and a second, decorative belt course can be found at the window head level. Between these courses, vertical panels of rosettes flank the central fenestration. Decorative brackets process across the facade at the attic level, along with a highly decorative frieze. Four panels of rosettes are inset within four extended brackets in this area.

11. 8-10 E. National Ave. (C)

The Lark Theater 1922/ 1958

Mision/Renaissance Revival - The ground floor of this three and a half story building was remodeled in 1958, to contain full display windows with a central door. Originally built as a movie theatre, the original five-bay facade with round arched windows was covered during the remodelling with tile panels. A new roof replaced the

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original tile, although the original round arched dormer was retained. The building is presently occupied by the Brazil Community Theater.

12. 2-6 E. National Ave. (N/C)

Riddell National Bank c.1880/1931/1959

Late International Style - This building reveals three different eras of remodelling. The original building, c. 1880 was a two-story brick, of Italianate style (encompassing only #2, the corner lot.) The remaining windows of the northern extension (on the Walnut Street side) have segmental arched windows with decorative limestone trim, indicative of that period. The Riddell National Bank occupied the building since at least 1883 and possibly earlier. In 1931, the facade of the building was remodeled, utilizing rock face cast stone block. Most of the fenestration was retained, the block serving as an applique to the facade. In 1959, the building was incorporated into a second remodelling and expansion. At this time, the building next door to the east (4-6 E. National), which had been constructed sometime prior to 1887, was demolished. The new front, which extends around the corner and across the combined lots, was completed in a late version of the International Style. The rear portion of the original building was retained, as the north wing. The present facade dates to this remodelling and is of limestone, glass and metal panels.

13. 1-7 W. National Ave. (O)

Citizens Bank Building c. 1910

Photo No. 6

Beaux Arts - This three and a half story brick and limestone block has a high base of limestone at the foundation. The first floor facade is also of limestone, with segmental arch display windows, on the south and east sides, with projecting, decorative brackets as keystones. The main entry, on National Ave. is contained within a large opening, and a pair of Ionic columns supporting a corniced portico with decorative carved stone orbs surmounting the entablature. This two-part commercial block also contains two storefronts on the north facade, separated by limestone pilasters, with an entry to the upstairs floors on the east side of the east storefront. There has been some infill on the ground floor. The fenestration on the second and third floors of the building are unified by strong vertical limestone window surrounds, containing decorative keystone brackets and with carved stone garlanded spandrels at the second floor line. In addition, the verticality is strengthened by alternating brick and limestone pilasters, topped with modified Ionic capitals at the stone belt course which denotes the third floor ceiling line. Above this, at the roofline,

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is a dentilled and decorated stone cornice surmounted by a corbelled parapet wall, featuring truncated pilasters and inset brick panels, demarking the fenestration divisions of the lower floors.

A second, modified entry is present half-way toward the rear of the building and the facade decoration on the building from the second entry, northward, has been modified. Walls are of brick, with modest limestone decorations at the window heads.

The building was constructed between 1906 and 1910 on this site, where the former McGregor Opera House had been located until it burned in 1906.

14. 9 W. National Ave. (N/C) c.1980 Photo No. 7  
Functional - One story brick stroefront with "mansard" canopy, brick bulkheads and display windows.
15. 11 W. National Ave. (C) c.1890 Photo No. 7  
Italianate - A two-story, three-bay brick and limestone building. The ground floor has been changed to contain three, round-arched openings with tan brick surrounds and brick infill, new doors and windows. The second floor contains a central, segmental arched window with alternating smooth-dressed and rusticated limestone surround and projecting keystone. Two windows flanking have similar surrounds and flat heads. The pilasters at left and right sides of the building are comprised of limestone blocks, alternating dressed and rusticated.
16. 13 W. National Ave. (C) c. 1895 Photo No. 8 (right)  
Romanesque Revival - Three story, three bay brick building. The ground floor has been remodeled and contains a brick faced planter and bulkhead, new display windows and porcelain enamelled metal pan facade. The second and third floors contain brick pilasters topped with modified corinthian capitals of terra cotta. Second floor windows have flat heads which are occluded with plywood inserts, while the third floor windows have round arched heads of rubbed, radiating bricks. The roof line is marked by a cornice, decorated and with simple stone dentils. Above, the parapet is relieved with quarter segments and limestone capped.
17. 15-17 W. National Ave. (C) c. 1895 Photo No. 8  
Romanesque Revival - This two-story, six-bay brick building is complimentary to the previous structure. Ground floor infill includes brick and shingle facade materials, along with porcelain

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enamel metal tiles, although a decorative cast iron column remains. The second floor features six round-arched windows, with brick heads and pilasters similar to those of 13 W. National.

18. 23 W. National Ave. (N/C) c. 1990  
Functional, Modern one story building with a low pyramidal roof and a brick facade.
19. 101-103 W. National Ave. (O) Photo No. 9  
Brazil Trust Company c. 1915  
Beaux Arts - This two and a half story building features a limestone facade which is replete with classical details, including three stone pediments supported by ancones. While the central entry has been converted to windows, the openings remain, flanking this entry, which is demarked by an arched pediment, supported by curved brackets. Two pedimented entries flank the central, enframed panel and window wall. The left opening leads to the second floor office spaces. Flanking the central, enframed window area on the second floor are two, labelled windows with bracketed sills. Above this treatment is an ornamental frieze with the name of the bank incised with swagging and roundels left and right. This is surmounted by a decorative cornice of small dentils and brackets, over which is an enframed, running row of floral motifs. Some interior details remain.
- A sensitive contemporary wing to the west, of limestone and metal, is now part of the structure.
20. 113 W. National Ave. (N/C) c. 1990  
Functional, modern, one-story brick infill building with a metal canopy and four-bay storefronts.
21. 115 W. National Ave. (O) Photo No. 10  
D. H. Davis Building 1909  
Beaux Arts - This brick and limestone, two-part commercial block has a high degree of integrity. The foundation and first floor facade are of limestone, with exaggerated stonework joints and projecting pilasters separating the display windows and entrances on the National Avenue and Meridian Street. The main entrance features a modified portico, supported by ornate brackets and a central cartouche, with floral swags and scrolled decorations. The inner frame of the entryway is also decorated with a carved swagging. The limestone treatment continues to a belting course at the second floor line.

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The second floor fenestration consists of tripartite, double or single, double hung (one over one light) windows, with white glazed terra cotta surrounds and limestone sills. The heads on the double and tripartite windows contain a scrolled bracket as a keystone and a floral roundel at the left and right upper corners. Alternating horizontal bands of brick and terra cotta decorate the walls and pilasters on this floor, and an ornate cornice of terra cotta marks the second floor ceiling line. Above this, the parapet of brick is capped with terra cotta. A decorative label of the same material, with cornice, scrollwork and swags, marks the main entrance area, and announces the name of the building owner.

22. 201-205 W. National Ave. (N/C) c. 1990  
Functional, modern brick and frame building with low gable roof.
23. 207-215 W. National Ave (C) c. 1905 Photo No. 11  
Italianate - The First floor of this eleven-bay brick building has been remodeled to include new, double display windows, brick bulkheads, a recessed single entry and modern siding. The second and attic floors have a pressed metal applique featuring various decorative elements, including floral motifs as vertical and horizontal bands, cornice belting at the second floor line, rock face imitative ashlar, and a projecting cornice at the roofline, with brackets and roundels. Second story windows (one over one light) have been covered with metal or board.
24. 217 W. National Ave. (C) c. 1895  
Italianate/functional modern - This two story brick building contains a metal facade as a plain applique, with a sign in the center and a wood and asphalt shingle canopy. The first floor retains a recessed entry and large display windows.
25. Southwest corner Forest & National Streets  
Empty lot.
26. 213-215 E. National Ave. (C) c. 1885  
Commercial Style - Ground floor of this one and a half-story brick building has two, modern, mock gable front facades as appliques. The attic story contains a corbelled brick frieze.
27. 211 E. National Ave. (N/C) c. 1890  
Functional - Two-story brick building oversided, with two modern pedimented windows on the second story and modern infill on the ground floor.

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28. McNutt Fountain (O) 1906 Photo No. 12  
This granite drinking fountain is one of two given to the city of Brazil by Lewis McNutt (the other is located in the city park.) Located at the front of the City Hall lot on the south side of E. National Ave., the fountain is of rock face and smooth-dressed pink granite. A polished band at the top contains low relief inscriptions commemorating the city officials, donor and designer of the object. The date is included in raised relief on the west side below ovate apertures which allow access to the water on all four sides. Concrete steps, separately cast, have been placed on the north side for access by children. The fountain was designed by George A. Fletcher, a city civil engineer.
29. Brazil City Hall and Police Department (N/C) c. 1965  
Modern/contemporary - tan brick one-story building, set well back from the street and built as a split level, with the police state on the lower level on the south side.
30. 121-123 E. National Ave. (C) c. 1910/1920 Photo No. 13  
Romanesque/Colonial Revival - This two and a half story brick building was remodelled on the first floor for the Brazil Times, after its initial construction. The ground floor contains two storefronts and an entrance to the second floor area. The eastern, two-bay part of the front has multi-light display windows and transom windows, a recessed entry, wood bulkheads, and two large square, fluted pilasters at the arris. The central bay also is demarked by fluted pilasters and contains a pedimented doorway flanked by multi-light windows. The transoms are painted over. The second floor entrance contains double transoms and a recessed door.

The second floor fenestration (on the east or Washington street facade) includes segmental arch windows, six-over-six light. Two flat windows, to the left of a central panel, enframed by corbelled brick and with a belt course of limestone and brick as sills, contain six-over-six lights. Centered within the middle panel is a round-arched double window with radiating muntins and lune shaped lights at the circumference. The window head is formed by radial bricks, springing from limestone brackets at the haunches. The attic story contains segmental arched (originally) multi-light small windows. The central part of the three-part construction contains a recessed sign panel with the words "TIMES BUILDING" in raised relief. Four brick pilasters act as vertical dividers for the building's sections and rise as short, gabled pillars above the

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roofline. A cornice of corbelled brick brackets completes the composition.

31. 117 E. National Ave. (C) c. 1925.  
Commercial Style - Brick, one and a half story building, with full display windows on the ground floor, recessed entry. Upper facade is of pari-colored brick veneer with three corbelled panels.
32. 115 E. National Ave. (C) c. 1925 Photo No. 14 (left)  
Tudor Revival - The ground floor of this two-story brick building contains extensive brick infill and left and right entries. A shingled canopy supported by large brackets divides the first and second floors. It is similar to a larger shingled canopy extending down from the roofline to shield three multi-paned windows. Large brackets divide the windows and frame the floor. Tile coping protects the exposed roofline on the eastern edge.
33. 113 E. National Ave. (N) c. 1900 Photo No. 14 (center)  
Italianate - A two and a half story, three-bay brick building with segmental arch windows on the second floor with stone sills and a corbelled brick frieze at the roofline. The ground floor is nearly intact, with round cast iron columns with modified corinthian capitals which support a modest flat iron lintel, wood-framed display windows and transoms and recessed main entry. Portions of the former wood frame panel bulkheads have been infilled with brick. Entrance to the second floor is at the far right of the facade, with a full light wood door.
34. 111 E. National Ave. (C) c. 1900 Photo No. 14 (right)  
Italianate - The ground floor of this building has brick infill in the bulkheads, and vertical board siding over the transoms. The three bay facade is maintained beneath a cast iron lintel with a recessed entry and full-light display windows. The second floor contains three flat windows with rock-face limestone heads and dressed stone sills. Above this is a frieze of corbelled brackets and a plain roofline, with simple coping.
35. 109 E. National Ave. (N/C) c. 1980  
Functional, contemporary building, one-story with a four bay facade.
36. 103-105 E. National Ave. (N) c. 1880 Photo No. 15 (left)  
Italianate - The ground floor of this brick, two-story building has been remodelled to contain large, full-light display windows and a



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central entrance, with board siding infill over a modern door. The large sign frieze covers the transom area. Above, the building is notable for the extensive limestone decoration, including a bracketed cornice at the second floor line. Three vertical limestone pilasters of alternating dressed and vermiculated blocks divide the seven-bay facade and punctuate the building at the belt course with pronounced, double brackets (upper and lower) decorated with fluting, roundels and other motifs. The windows have segmental arched heads with projecting cornice and keystones. A highly decorative cornice at the roofline contains brackets, roundels and egg-and-dart moldings.

37. 101 E. National Ave. (N) c. 1880 Photo No. 15 (right)  
Italianate - This building is part of the same commercial block as the previous structure and contains the same detailing on the second and attic floors. Ground floor features include a recessed entrance to the second floor, with transom, and a remodelled storefront, with brick, wood and other infill. On the Sherfey Street facade, there are two ocular lights with limestone surrounds and keystones as well as a rear entry with similar detailing. Second floor windows on this facade are also occluded, but retain the decorative limestone surrounds. Two limestone pilasters are retained, although the cornice has been lost in one bay south of National Avenue.
38. 1 E. National Ave. (N/C)  
Riddell National Bank c. 1980  
Modern/Contemporary - One story brick and limestone building, which encompasses the entire block between Sherfey and Walnut Street.
39. 2-4 W. National Ave. (N/C) c.1990  
Functional - One story brick commercial building with mansard canopy.
40. 8 W. National Ave. (C) c. 1890  
Italianate - Two story brick building with corbelled frieze and decorative entablature, including a cornice and a decorative belt course which is shared with the facade to the west. There is a single, segmental arch window on the second floor with a head of brick soldiers and a narrow, projecting border. The first floor has been remodelled, although a central recessed entry and door to second floor (on the right) remain.
41. 10 W. National Ave. (C) c. 1890  
Italianate - Part of the same block as 8 W. National, this

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structure also shares the corbelling, cornice and entablature at the attic level. It has a three-bay facade on the second floor, containing segmental arch windows with stone sills. The ground floor transoms have been covered with a sign panel and there are full-light display windows with a recessed central entry, infill brick in the bulkheads.

42. 12 W. National Ave. (O) Photo No. 16  
Telephone Building c. 1925  
Neo-Classical Revival - This brick building features granite facing at the foundation and bulkhead level. First floor features include two main entries flanking a central, multi-light display window. Both entries are pedimented, of granite and surmounted with decorative stone anthemions. At the second floor level, an oversize window is flanked by two narrow windows, all now blocked with a composition tile-patterned board and a louvre. Above, two stone roundels quatrefoils, incised and flush with the brick, surmount a decorative limestone belt course. An ornate limestone entablature with brackets and copper cornice marks the roof line. A raised parapet with limestone coping finishes this facade.
43. 14 W. National Ave. (C) c. 1880/1920 Photo No. 17  
Commercial Style - This brick, one-story commercial has a multi-colored brick veneer, with one original cast iron column. Remodelled c. 1920 with a new facade, windows and prism glass transom.
44. 16-18 W. National Ave. (N/C) c. 1990  
Functional modern one-story building with rubble stone veneer and mansard canopy.
45. 20-24 W. National Ave. (N) c. 1905 Photo No. 18  
Romanesque Revival - Ground floor infill and mansard canopy have changed the ground floor of this 7-bay two and a half story, two-part brick commercial block. Square cast iron columns remain to divide the original spaces. The building is located on the site of the Knight Block which was badly burned c.1902.

Round arch windows with multiple rows of brick laid rowlock at their heads punctuate the second floor facade, which is divided by corbelled brick pilasters into four segments, three of which are two bays wide and a fourth, one-bay segment which is the stair hall for entry to the second floor spaces. Above the fenestration, at the attic level, corbelled brick panels with brackets inset are present in each of the segments. above, a corbelled cornice

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decorates the roof line which is broken by the extensions of the pilasters.

46. 104-108 W. National Ave. (C) c. 1900 Photo No. 19 (left)  
Italianate - This two-story brick building contains a bracketed wood cornice, brick corbelled frieze, label window heads and stone sill with ornamental terra cotta panels below. The first floor transoms and display windows are blocked with vertical board panelling, but the cast iron columns are still visible.
47. 110 W. National Ave. (C) c. 1900 Photo No. 19  
Italianate - Although infill and a new sign frieze, covering the transom area have changed the first floor of this building, Entries at the right and left side of the facade remain. The right entry leads to the second story level. The second floor contains four large windows (presently infilled with glass block) with limestone segmental arch heads with keystones, stone sills. The building probably contained a cornice similar to its neighbor. The area is now denoted with paint.
48. 112 W. National Ave. (C) c. 1880 Photo No. 20  
Commercial Style - This simple two-story brick building contains one tripartite window on the second floor facade. Side windows on the alley have been blocked. The ground floor transom is blocked, but the recessed entry and display window areas remain.
49. 116 W. National Ave (C) c. 1890/c. 1940 Photo No. 21  
Commercial Style - This simple one and a half story brick building has a facade which was probably remodelled c. 1940. The facade is presently ceramic tile, with a bordered edge. The ground floor contains full-light windows with a recessed entry and transom over the main door. A pilaster on the right side of the building remains to mark the party wall of a building which once was located to the west.
50. Southeast corner of Meridian Street and W. National Ave.  
c. 1980 - parking lot.
51. 102. E. Jackson Street (C) c. 1875  
Italianate - Two story painted brick, irregular plan building with limestone water table, rectangular window openings, infilled with glass block, low hipped roof, with hexagonal bay wing, several shed roof additions. Formerly a residence, now used by the American Legion.

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52. 19 S. Sherfey Street (N)  
B. P. O. E. Lodge (Elks) 1906  
Prairie/Arts & Crafts - Two story brick building, rectangular in plan, with a front porch, main entry and side entry stairs. The porch windows are occluded with glass block. The main facade has a projecting entry bay with gabled roof, double brackets in the cornice and wide eaves. The bay contains a segmental arch attic window with bracketed sill, an inset stone panel and a double entry door with modern infill. Windows on the main block are oversize, tripartite, with one-over-one lights, the upper being approximate one third the size of the lower. Wide overhanging eaves, with supporting double brackets (spaced between the windows) are a prominent feature as is a large brick chimney, expressed on the exterior of the building, which carries through the eaves and rises to tower above the roof.
53. 24 S. Walnut Street (C)  
Cooper Theater c. 1947  
Art Deco - Two story, tan, rough-cut brick buildings with a one-story extension to the south. Built after the fire of March, 1947 which destroyed the Sourwine Theater on this site, the building has a recessed entry flanked by walls with horizontal alternating bands of brick and dark green glazed tile. The parapet above the aluminum marquee rises in a vertical pattern of the same green tiles. The front doors are of aluminum. The commercial space adjacent to the theatre is trimmed in green glazed brick, inset in the window area and surrounding the single door.

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### 8. Statement of Significance

#### Summary

The Brazil Downtown Historic District derives its historical significance from its association with the National Road, a major artery during the mid-nineteenth century migration westward and the early twentieth century rise of the automobile and related growth in the midwest. It is also significant for its continuous use as the central business district of the town, whose economic life reflects the expansion and development of the extractive industry in this part of the midwest. Finally, it possesses excellent examples of nineteenth and early twentieth century architectural design and workmanship. The period of significance, from c.1875 to c.1925 represents the era of construction of the contributing buildings which are located within the district.

#### Statement of Significance

The western extension of the National Road was surveyed through what is now Brazil beginning 1825, although the town itself was not laid out until 1844. Work on the road was completed from Columbus, Ohio to Springfield, Illinois by 1838.<sup>1</sup> It appears that the town contained at least a few cabins, possibly as early as 1834, or before. A settler named Owen Thorpe is credited with having founded the town of Brazil, by moving a house three miles west from the original, but unsuccessful town-site of Harmony, Indiana.<sup>2</sup> A few years before, Thorpe had purchased the tract of land which now encompasses much of downtown Brazil. 28 lots were laid out from the southeast corner of Main (now National Ave.) and Meridian streets and extended east to Madison (now Walnut St.) with the southern boundary along Jackson. In 1845 an addition incorporated areas north of Church Street. The present district encompasses all of this early plat and a short distance west.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> George R. Stewart, *U. S. 40, Cross Section of the United States of America*, Cambridge, MA: Riverside Press, p. 116.

<sup>2</sup> William Travis, *A History of Clay County, Indiana, Vol I*, New York: Lewis Publishing Co., 1909, p. 113.

<sup>3</sup> Charles Blanchard, *History of Clay County*, Chicago: F.A. Batty & Co., 1884, p. 141.

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## The National Road

The National Road was America's first federal internal improvement project -- funded by the U.S. Congress in 1806 under Thomas Jefferson's administration. The road followed a route from Cumberland, Maryland eastward to terminate in Vandalia, Illinois. Some of the eastern portion of the road followed trails surveyed and travelled in the 18th century, before the American Revolution.<sup>4</sup>

Construction of the Indiana portion of the road began in 1829 spreading out from Indianapolis. The last appropriation for construction was made in 1838. Tolls were charged to maintain the route, which opened across the state in 1834. A stream of immigrants, peddlers, drovers, stagecoaches with passengers and mail, as well as local residents made use of the National Road, in most cases, the only alternative to narrow trails through woods and brambles. Everyone along the road benefitted from the traffic, much of which consisted of immigrant families trekking westward in search of a new life. In 1850, a local paper in Richmond, Indiana reported that over 700 emigrant parties had crossed the bridge over the Whitewater River near that city in a single six-day period.<sup>5</sup>

While travelling on the National Road across Indiana was an uneven experience (maintenance and construction techniques varied, county by county), it was a boon to those families who had tried to travel overland before its existence. One historian, reflecting on its significance has said, "Good or bad, the National Road was a godsend to Indiana. Not only did it bring new towns into existence and increase population, but it also provided mail service and an improved route for hauling goods. The road paid for itself again and again."<sup>6</sup> The National Road brought all of these benefits to the town of Brazil and greatly encouraged local development.

The naming of the town has been credited to several individuals, but it seems likely that either Owen Thorpe, or another local man, (William Stewart) suggested the unusual appellation after reading in

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<sup>4</sup> Philip D. Jordan, *The National Road*, Indianapolis: Bobs-Merrill Co., 1948, pp.21-15.

<sup>5</sup> *The National Road Corridor Management Plan*, Indianapolis, Indiana: The Indiana National Road Association, et. al. 1995, p. 14,15.

<sup>6</sup> Jordan, p. 142.

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the national press about Brazil, South America, then being touted as the largest empire in the New World. There was also no other U.S. Post Office of the same name.<sup>7</sup> By 1866 the town was incorporated. In the intervening twenty years, the Terre Haute & Richmond Railroad had established a line through the town (south of the district), and the town had seen enjoyed considerable growth. In 1850, the population included 84 individuals. By 1873, only seven years after incorporation it had blossomed to three thousand souls.<sup>8</sup>

Clay County was organized in 1825, part of the intense development of Indiana which followed statehood in 1816. The county was carved out of territory once part of the three surrounding counties, Sullivan, Owen and Vigo. The boundary lines of Clay County have not changed since it was defined by the 1825 legislation.<sup>9</sup> The first county seat was located in the southcentral part, at the town of Bowling Green. By the 1850s, citizens had begun to agitate for a more central location. More than twenty years and considerable controversy ensued before the town of Brazil, located in the north central part of the county, was selected. In 1871, the board of commissioners ordered the county seat relocated, probably encouraged by the town's enterprising populace, who had procured ground for a new courthouse and raised funds to cover the costs of relocation. By January of 1877, with a new courthouse complete and a new jail to be built the following year, all county records were removed to Brazil, where they have remained ever since.<sup>10</sup>

Nineteenth century Brazil was a place of enthusiasm and vitality. Traffic on the National Road was heavy and the railroad was moving goods and people eastward and westward across Indiana, through the town. In 1867 the town renamed the National Road Main Street and the county road at the eastern edge of town became Factory Street (now Forest Avenue.) Improvements were made to the street, at the center of town, including grading and the laying of cinder or pounded stone in 1870. The same year provisions were made to avert the dangers of fire when the construction of wooden buildings was banned on Main

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<sup>7</sup> Ibid., and Travis Vol. I, p. 113.

<sup>8</sup> Travis, Vol I., pp. 115,117.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid., pp.2,3.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid., p. 23

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Street, from Center to Depot and fifty feet on either side.<sup>11</sup> Further insurance against the constant danger of fire was made possible when bonds were issued in 1875 for the construction of a town waterworks. A few years later the city fathers replaced the town well with a reservoir of several acres which afforded, "all the water that any demand may require."<sup>12</sup> Several of the brick commercial blocks in present-day Brazil date to this era of construction.

### Coal, Clay and Commerce

The fuel for Brazil's development came first from the coal industry. Brazil block coal was called "unsurpassed and almost unequalled in the entire Mississippi valley."<sup>13</sup> The rich deposits in Clay County, and other nearby areas provided Brazil with opportunity and its businessmen with the means to amass considerable wealth. The railroad had come through the town in the 1850s, providing the transportation link to reach major markets. All of these elements combined to create a surge in the economy of the town. During the Civil War, in 1863, the coal mining industry in Clay County was in its infancy, by 1871 a published statement recorded a daily output of 2,450 tons in 24 mines. By 1908 the Brazil Times could report a single day's output of a single mine at 1,114 tons, with a projected daily capacity of 1,800 tons.<sup>14</sup>

The people of Brazil had close ties to the coal industry. Many relocated to the town because of these connections. One prominent citizen had visited the town with his father, who came to supervise erection of a large blast furnace. Later, he became a mining engineer and returned to make his career in the community, serving for a time as mayor. Although the mines were located around the county, at least one, the "Town Shaft" operated at Brazil.

Many loyal citizens were proud to return something lasting to the community which gave them so much. The McNutt fountain, on the front lawn of the City Hall is a case in point. Lewis McNutt was a successful businessman who served on the city council in 1904-5. He

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<sup>11</sup> Ibid., p. 119.

<sup>12</sup> Blanchard, p. 147.

<sup>13</sup> Travis Vol. II, p. 9.

<sup>14</sup> Travis, Vol. I, p. 623.



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was credited with having reduced city taxes and been instrumental in helping the city retire a debt of \$30,000. To prove that his salary as a councilman did not affect the performance of his official duties, he returned it to the city in 1906 in the form of the granite fountain which now holds a prominent position on National Avenue.<sup>15</sup>

Up to about 1890, the coal industry and related iron and steel founding held sway in Brazil. But clay industries were also to play a large part in the later development of the community. Since the middle of the nineteenth century, the manufacture of brick and clay products had been undertaken in Clay County, and the presence of large deposits these raw materials was known, but most of the activity was relatively local. In 1886 two companies in the county accounted for twenty employees and the value of the output was about \$12,000 annually. By 1908 Brazil's importance in the manufacturing world was measured in the output of its clay works with an invested capital of between \$1.2 and \$1.5 million dollars and annual wages in the community of about half a million dollars. A contemporary history states that, "every day in the year a train of about thirty-five cars, loaded with brick, sewer pipe, tile, etc., leaves Brazil for the markets of the middle west, ...the Atlantic Coast, and recently ... to Oregon." Nine large clay factories operated in the Brazil area after the turn of the century, including the oldest, the Weaver Clay and Coal Company which was established in 1872.<sup>16</sup>

A number of men who made their fortunes as owners of successful mines branched out into other related industries and businesses in the town. Two examples can be cited to represent many: Mr. E. L. Winklepleck a mine owner and the owner of a furniture store was also an organizer of the Brazil Trust Company and the Citizens National Bank (both buildings are within the district). In 1895 he built a home and a business building in the town; Mr. William M. Zeller, whose father had sunk an early coal shaft in the area, became a partner in an extensive mining operation of his own and president of the Brazil Clay Company, the American Coal and Banking Company and the Citizens National Bank. The Brazil Downtown Historic District was built largely on the impetus of this economic boon, which continued throughout the district's period of significance. Three outstanding bank buildings, the D. H. Davis Building (Davis Trust Company), the Citizens National Bank and the Brazil Trust Company buildings, all

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<sup>15</sup> Travis, Vol II., p. 135.

<sup>16</sup> Travis Vol. I, p. 127.

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demonstrate the close ties between the extractive industry (with its related iron and steel foundries) and the financial life of the town. Most of the other historic buildings are reflective of the supporting commerce which provided everything from bicycles to barbering for the workers and financiers of Brazil. It is no surprise that a huge block of coal (nearly a ton and a cubic yard in size) was proudly displayed in 1871 on a prominent downtown corner for visitors and residents alike to admire.<sup>17</sup>

## Architecture

Brazil's architecture is significant for its high quality of design and workmanship, especially in regard to buildings of the Italianate, Neo-Classical Revival, Beaux Arts and Romanesque Revival, and in the context of a small, midwestern town.

Three buildings demonstrate interesting variations of the Beaux Arts style, adapted to a commercial setting: The D. H. Davis Building uses limestone to develop an interesting block, curved at the corner, with swags, cartouche and brackets with floral motifs. The upper floors provide an interesting variant, in the use of terra cotta and brick; The Brazil Trust Company blends the neoclassical influences with the Beaux Arts flourish, in a facade composition entirely of native limestone; the Citizens Bank building, the most decorative and exuberant of the three, also features carved limestone on the first floor facade, but continues the use of brick and limestone to the upper reaches of the parapet.

The U. S. Post Office building, designed by James Knox Taylor, exemplifies the Neo-Classical style, with its imposing limestone colonnaded portico. Round arch openings, with keystones. The foundation of limestone is interestingly varied by the local brick used as the facade material for most of the building. The Telephone Building is also a good example of the Neo-Classical style, in more restrained form.

Several examples of the popular Italianate style can be seen in the commercial structures. A brick and limestone facade (#10) is exuberant in a small building with a highly ornate cornice and a tripartite window composition as the only fenestration on the upper floor. Others (#37, 46, 47) also demonstrate a high degree of craftsmanship in the ornamentation of the upper floors. A few later

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<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

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versions of the style (#8) substitute brick for the ornate cornice work, and a Commercial Style building (#9) of imposing stature, blends some elements of the nineteenth century in its cornice, with the sleeker look of styles popular after the turn of the century.

The use of native materials is also significant in many of these buildings. Terra Cotta and local brick are often seen, and of course, the Indiana limestone is everywhere present.

A singular example of architecture related to the rise of the automobile can be found in the Sinclair Oil Gas Station (#5), with its eclectic design. Interestingly enough, its present use, although changed, is still automobile-related. Another unusual building features a facade which is entirely covered in pressed metal, with a prolific variety of patterns and designs (#23). Romanesque Revival is present in several examples, (#16, 17 & 45), with a high degree of artistry in the use of corbelled brick. Finally, other eclectic styles can be glimpsed, along with a single example of Prairie Style, whose Arts & Crafts influence can be seen in the brackets and projecting entry bay. The architecture of the district demonstrates a variety of styles which were popular during the period of significance. In several instances, the quality of their execution is outstanding, especially in the context of the small, rural midwestern environment.

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Clay County, Indiana**

## 10. Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the northeast property line of the building at 122 E. National Avenue, continue along the west side of Forest Avenue, South to the alley south of E. National Avenue, then turn west and follow the alley to the eastern boundary of City Hall, then south to the north side of Jackson Street, turning west to the east side of Washington Street. Follow Washington Street north to the alley south of E. National Avenue, then west to the eastern property line of the building at 102 E. Jackson Street and turn south to the north side of Jackson Street, following this street west to the east side of S. Walnut Street. Turn north to the alley south of E. National Avenue and continue west until it intersects Meridian Street, then turn north along the east side of Meridian to the north side of W. National Avenue, turning east and continuing along W. National to the western side of the property at 217 W. National Ave, then north to the north property line of said building and turn east, following a line parallel to W. National Avenue to intersect the alley north of W. National Avenue at Meridian Street, continue east along the alley, or the line of the former alley, to the place of beginning.

## Boundary Justification

The district boundary encompasses the earliest plat of the town, and is clearly demarked by the high concentration of nineteenth and early twentieth century structures. In addition, it follows the National Road -- the first Main Street -- only diverging from that artery to include contributing structures which relate to the commercial area and which have architectural merit.

